STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Employment Bulletin

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RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - SEPTEMBER 1991

Overall Rhode Island wage and salary jobs climbed to 435,900 in September, mainly the result of education-related employment gains which more than offset declines in Wholesale/Retail Trade and Contract Construction. Despite the monthly increase of 4,300, the September job total remained 14,200 below the year ago figure of 450,100.

Employment in the Service Producing sector rose by 4,700 from August to the September level of 328,000; however, this job total was down 4,300 on an annual basis. Monthly employment increases in both Government (+4,100) and Services (+2,300) reflected the return of school personnel. Trade employment posted a seasonal downturn of 1,000 for the month, while job levels in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate and Transportation & Public Utilities fell by 500 and 200, respectively.

The number of jobs in the Goods Producing sector totaled 107,900 in September, a loss of 400 from the previous month and 9,900 from the September 1990 level. Contract Construction, at 14,900, registered a seasonal monthly decline of 800 and an annual reduction of 3,900 jobs. In contrast, the Manufacturing industry expanded by 400 jobs over the month to the September figure of 93,000. Compared to a year ago, however, jobs in this industry diminished by 6,000.

Manufacturers of Durable Goods reported an increase of 300 jobs in September while employment in Nondurable Goods was up 100. Within the factory segment, the largest August-September job gain (+400) occurred in Jewelry-Silverware, followed by an upturn of 200 in Miscellaneous Manufacturing. These increases, along with smaller monthly advances of 100 each in Food-Beverage and Chemical Products, more than offset decreases of 100 each in Primary Metals, Nonelectrical Machinery, Instruments and Apparel. Job totals for the remaining eleven segments - five in Durable Goods and six in Nondurable Goods - showed no change from August to September.

The September work week averaged 41.8 hours, up 1.9 hours from the prior month and 1.6 hours from a year ago. Production workers averaged $9.66 per hour in September, representing a gain of 1 cent from August and 15 cents compared to September 1990.

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 9.6 percent in September, up 0.4 of a percentage point from the previous month's estimate of 9.2 percent. The State's unadjusted rate also posted a monthly increase - from 8.5 percent in August to 9.2 percent in September. In concert with the higher unemployment rate, the September jobless total was estimated at 47,200, reflecting an increase of 3,600 from the month earlier estimate. One year ago, the adjusted and unadjusted rates were placed at 6.5 and 6.4 percent, respectively, while the number of unemployed stood at 32,700.

Nationally, both the adjusted and unadjusted rates decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point over the month. The U.S. adjusted rate dropped to 6.7 percent, while the unadjusted rate slipped to 6.4 percent. A year ago September, the rates were estimated at 5.7 percent (adjusted) and 5.5 percent (unadjusted).

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration recently released a list of Labor Surplus Areas (LSA's). On the list, which became effective October 1, 1991 and will remain in effect through September 30, 1992, are the following communities:

BRISTOL	*LITTLE COMPTON**	*SMITHFIELD**
*BURRILLVILLE**	*NEW SHOREHAM*	*TIVERTON*
CENTRAL FALLS	*NORTH SMITHFIELD**	*WARREN*
*CUMBERLAND**	*PAWTUCKET**	*WEST WARWICK**
*LINCOLN**	*PROVIDENCE**	*WOONSOCKET*

Employers located in Labor Surplus Areas may be given preference in bidding on federal procurement contracts. The purpose in providing such preference is to help direct the government's procurement dollars into areas where people are in the most severe economic need based on their high unemployment rates.

A civil jurisdiction is classified as a Labor Surplus Area when its average unemployment rate is at least 20 percent above the average unemployment rate for all states during the previous two calendar years. Based upon an average unemployment rate for all states of 5.5 percent for 1989-1990, the qualifying unemployment rate for the LSA classification is 6.6 percent for a civil jurisdiction using the two year reference period.

In addition, LSA regulations permit the U.S. Department of Labor to waive the basic qualifying criteria when an area's unemployment increases substantially due to "exceptional circumstances" which may result from major plant closings or cutbacks, contract cancellations, or catastrophic events such as fires, floods and other major disasters. The Rhode Island Department of Employment and Training is responsible for initiating the preparation and submittal of petitions requesting LSA classification on the basis of "exceptional circumstances" criteria.

* These areas qualified on the basis of "exceptional circumstances"

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Employment and unemployment statistics contained in this report were compiled by THE DEPT. OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING in cooperation with the BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR. For additional information contact LABOR MARKET INFORMATION at 277-3706. TDD Voice: 277-3718.

RHODE ISLAND

Labor Force Statistics
(In Thousands)

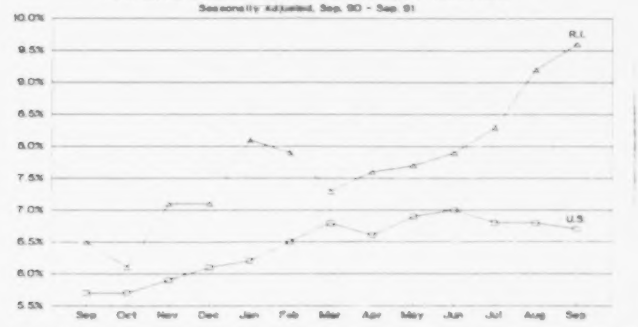
	Sep. 1991	Aug.* 1991	Sep.* 1990	
Civilian Labor Force	510.3	515.7	512.2	
Resident Employment	463.2	472.1	479.5	
Unemployment	47.2	43.6	32.7	
Rate (Unadjusted)	9.2	8.5	6.4	
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	9.6	9.2	6.5	*Revised

UNITED STATES

Labor Force Statistics
(In Thousands)

	Sep. 1991	Aug. 1991	Sep. 1990
Civilian Labor Force	125,405	126,097	124,779
Resident Employment	117,335	117,859	117,961
Unemployment	8,070	8,237	6,818
Rate (Unadjusted)	6.4	6.5	5.5
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	6.7	6.8	5.7

R.I. and U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)			NET CHANGE FROM	
	Sep. 1991	Aug. 1991	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1991	Sep. 1990
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	435.9	431.6	450.1	+ 4300	- 14200
GOODS PRODUCING	107.9	108.3	117.8	- 400	- 9900
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	14.9	15.7	18.8	- 800	- 3900
MANUFACTURING	93.0	92.6	99.0*	+ 400	- 6000
SERVICE PRODUCING	328.0	323.3	332.3	+ 4700	- 4300
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15.4	15.6	15.9	- 200	- 500
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	93.2	94.2	97.3	- 1000	- 4100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	25.8	26.3	27.0	- 500	- 1200
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	129.6	127.3	128.9	+ 2300	+ 700
GOVERNMENT	64.0	59.9	63.2	+ 4100	+ 800

*Labor Dispute

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

SEPTEMBER 1991

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)	PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES		
		Weekly Earnings	Weekly Hours	Hourly Earnings
ALL MANUFACTURING	93.0	403.79	41.8	9.66
DURABLE MFG.	61.9	413.10	42.5	9.72
LUMBER/FURNITURE	2.5	435.47	38.3	11.37
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1.3	465.31	39.5	11.78
PRIMARY METALS	3.7	416.56	41.0	10.16
FABRICATED METALS	7.2	381.80	41.5	9.20
NONELECTRIC MACH.	5.0	570.64	48.4	11.79
ELECTRICAL MACH.	4.5	386.71	39.3	9.84
TRANS. EQUIPMENT	6.4	569.82	43.9	12.98
INSTRUMENTS	6.2	467.12	44.7	10.45
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	19.5	338.78	42.4	7.99
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	5.6	374.69	42.1	8.90
NONDURABLE MFG.	31.1	382.70	40.2	9.52
FOOD-BEVERAGE	2.7	380.64	41.6	9.15
TEXTILES	8.4	359.53	42.7	8.42
APPAREL	1.5	271.70	38.0	7.15
PAPER PRODUCTS	1.9	401.74	42.2	9.52
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	5.8	421.04	33.9	12.42
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	2.9	452.80	38.8	11.67
RUBBER PRODUCTS	0.7	420.16	39.6	10.61
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	5.3	440.32	41.5	10.61
LEATHER PRODUCTS	1.9	262.64	39.2	6.70

Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded from the Establishment Employment figures. Current month figures are PRELIMINARY. Prior month and year figures are REVISED.